

# America's Children at a Glance

	Previous Value (Year)	Most Recent Value (Year)	Change Between Years
<b>Population and Family Characteristics</b>			
<b>Child population</b>			
Children ages 0–17 in the United States (number)	73.1 million (2003)	<b>73.3 million (2004)</b>	↑
<b>Children as a proportion of the population</b>			
Children ages 0–17 in the United States (percentage)	25% (2003)	<b>25% (2004)</b>	NS
<b>Racial and ethnic composition*</b>			
Children ages 0–17 by race and ethnic group			
White	76.5% (2003)	<b>76.5% (2004)</b>	NS
White, non-Hispanic	59.4% (2003)	<b>58.9% (2004)</b>	↓
Black	15.5% (2003)	<b>15.5% (2004)</b>	NS
Asian	3.8% (2003)	<b>3.9% (2004)</b>	↑
All other races	4.1% (2003)	<b>4.1% (2004)</b>	NS
Hispanic (of any race)	18.7% (2003)	<b>19.2% (2004)</b>	↑
<b>Children of at least one foreign-born parent</b>			
Children ages 0–17 living with at least one foreign-born parent	20% (2004)	<b>21% (2005)</b>	NS
<b>Difficulty speaking English</b>			
Children ages 5–17 who speak a language other than English at home	19% (2003)	<b>19% (2004)</b>	NS
Children ages 5–17 who speak a language other than English at home and who have difficulty speaking English	5% (2003)	<b>5% (2004)</b>	NS
<b>Family structure and children's living arrangements</b>			
Children ages 0–17 living with two married parents	68% (2004)	<b>67% (2005)</b>	NS
<b>Births to unmarried women</b>			
Births to unmarried women ages 15–44 (rate)	45 per 1,000 (2003)	<b>46 per 1,000 (2004)</b>	↑
All births that are to unmarried women (percentage)	35% (2003)	<b>36% (2004)</b>	↑
<b>Child care</b>			
Children, ages 0–6, not yet in kindergarten, who received some form of nonparental child care on a regular basis	61% (2001)	<b>61% (2005)</b>	NS
Children, ages 0–4, with employed mothers, whose primary child care arrangement is with a relative	48% (1999)	<b>46% (2002)</b>	NS

## Legend

NS - No statistically significant change    ↑ - Statistically significant increase    ↓ - Statistically significant decrease

\* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Population estimates are not sample derived and therefore not subject to statistical testing. Change between years identifies differences in the proportionate size of these estimates as rounded.

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	Previous Value (Year)	Most Recent Value (Year)	Change Between Years
<b>Population and Family Characteristics—continued</b>			
<b>Children's environments</b>			
Children ages 0–17 living in counties in which levels of one or more air pollutants rose above allowable levels	60% (2003)	46% (2004)	↓
Children ages 4–11 with cotinine in their blood (a marker of recent exposure to secondhand smoke)	88% (1988–1994)	59% (2001–2004)	↓
Households with children ages 0–6 where someone smokes regularly	19% (1999)	11% (2003)	↓
<b>Economic Security Indicators</b>			
<b>Child poverty and family income</b>			
Related children ages 0–17 in poverty	17% (2003)	17% (2004)	NS
<b>Secure parental employment</b>			
Children ages 0–17 living with at least one parent employed year round, full time	77% (2003)	78% (2004)	NS
<b>Housing problems</b>			
Households with children ages 0–17 reporting shelter cost burden, crowding, and/or physically inadequate housing	36% (2001)	37% (2003)	NS
<b>Household food security</b>			
Children ages 0–17 in households classified by USDA as “food insecure”	18% (2003)	19% (2004)	NS
<b>Access to health care</b>			
Children ages 0–17 covered by health insurance	89% (2003)	89% (2004)	NS
Children ages 0–17 with no usual source of health care	5% (2003)	5% (2004)	NS
<b>Health Indicators</b>			
<b>General health status</b>			
Children ages 0–17 in very good or excellent health	83% (2003)	82% (2004)	NS
<b>Emotional and behavioral difficulties</b>			
Children ages 4–17 reported by a parent to have definite or severe difficulties with emotions, concentration, behavior, or getting along with other people	5% (2003)	5% (2004)	NS
<b>Activity limitation</b>			
Children ages 5–17 with activity limitation resulting from one or more chronic health conditions	8% (2003)	8% (2004)	NS

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<b>Health Indicators — continued</b>			
<b>Overweight</b>			
Children ages 6–17 who are overweight	17% (2001–2002)	18% (2003–2004)	NS
<b>Childhood immunization</b>			
Children ages 19–35 months with the 4:3:1:3 combined series of vaccinations	81% (2003)	83% (2004)	NS
<b>Low birthweight</b>			
Infants weighing less than 5 lb. 8 oz. at birth	7.9% (2003)	8.1% (2004)	↑
<b>Infant mortality</b>			
Deaths before the first birthday	7.0 per 1,000 (2002)	6.8 per 1,000 (2003)	↓
<b>Child mortality</b>			
Deaths of children ages 1–4	31 per 100,000 (2002)	32 per 100,000 (2003)	NS
Deaths of children ages 5–14	17 per 100,000 (2002)	17 per 100,000 (2003)	NS
<b>Adolescent mortality</b>			
Deaths of adolescents ages 15–19	68 per 100,000 (2002)	66 per 100,000 (2003)	NS
<b>Adolescent births</b>			
Births to females ages 15–17	22.4 per 1,000 (2003)	22.1 per 1,000 (2004)	↓
<b>Behavior and Social Environment Indicators</b>			
<b>Regular cigarette smoking</b>			
Students who reported smoking daily in the previous 30 days			
8th-graders	4% (2004)	4% (2005)	NS
10th-graders	8% (2004)	8% (2005)	NS
12th-graders	16% (2004)	14% (2005)	↓
<b>Alcohol use</b>			
Students who reported having five or more alcoholic beverages in a row in the last 2 weeks			
8th-graders	11% (2004)	11% (2005)	NS
10th-graders	22% (2004)	21% (2005)	NS
12th-graders	29% (2004)	28% (2005)	NS
<b>Illicit drug use</b>			
Students who reported using illicit drugs in the previous 30 days			
8th-graders	8% (2004)	9% (2005)	NS
10th-graders	18% (2004)	17% (2005)	NS
12th-graders	23% (2004)	23% (2005)	NS

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<b>Behavior and Social Environment Indicators—continued</b>			
<b>Youth victims &amp; perpetrators of serious violent crimes</b>			
Serious violent crime victimization of youth ages 12–17	18 per 1,000 (2003)	11 per 1,000 (2004)	↓
Youth offenders ages 12–17 involved in serious violent crimes	15 per 1,000 (2003)	14 per 1,000 (2004)	NS
<b>Education Indicators</b>			
<b>Family reading to young children</b>			
Children ages 3–5 who were read to every day in the last week by a family member	58% (2001)	60% (2005)	NS
<b>Early childhood care and education</b>			
Children ages 3–5 who are enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs	56% (2001)	57% (2005)	NS
<b>Mathematics and reading achievement (0–500 scale)</b>			
Average mathematics scale score of			
4th-graders	235 (2003)	238 (2005)	↑
8th-graders	278 (2003)	279 (2005)	↑
12th-graders	302 (1996)	300 (2000)	NS
Average reading scale score of			
4th-graders	218 (2003)	219 (2005)	↑
8th-graders	263 (2003)	262 (2005)	↓
12th-graders	290 (1998)	287 (2002)	↓
<b>High school academic coursetaking</b>			
High school graduates who completed high-level coursework in			
Mathematics	41% (1998)	45% (2000)	NS
Science	62% (1998)	63% (2000)	NS
English	29% (1998)	34% (2000)	↑
Foreign language	30% (1998)	30% (2000)	NS
<b>High school completion</b>			
Young adults ages 18–24 who have completed high school	87% (2003)	87% (2004)	NS
<b>Youth neither enrolled in school nor working</b>			
Youth ages 16–19 who are neither enrolled in school nor working	8% (2004)	8% (2005)	NS
<b>Higher education</b>			
Adults ages 25–29 who have completed a bachelor's or more advanced degree	29% (2004)	29% (2005)	NS

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The report is also  
available on the

World Wide Web:

<http://childstats.gov>.

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## Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics was founded in 1994. Executive Order No. 13045 formally established the Forum in April 1997 to foster coordination and collaboration in the collection and reporting of Federal data on children and families. Agencies that are members of the Forum as of spring 2006 are listed below.

### Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service

### Department of Commerce

U.S. Census Bureau

### Department of Defense

Defense Manpower Data Center

### Department of Education

Institute of Education Sciences,  
National Center for Education Statistics

### Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Planning and Evaluation

Administration for Children and Families

Agency for Healthcare Research and  
Quality

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

National Center for Health Statistics

National Institute of Child Health  
and Human Development

### Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Policy Development and Research

### Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics

National Institute of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
Prevention

### Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Women's Bureau

### Department of Transportation

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Office of Environmental Information

### National Science Foundation

Division of Science Resources Statistics

### Office of Management and Budget

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